



United States House of Representatives

For Immediate Release

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Republicans Take Action to Lower Gas Prices

WASHINGTON, DC – As Congress returns from the July 4th holiday, House Democrats have released a schedule of votes focused on the storage of officials e-mails and the naming of federal post offices. But the one area they continue to ignore is the one area the American people are most concerned: high gas prices.

This majority seems content to keep energy-rich tracts of land off-limits to job-creating producers while ignoring Republican calls for an “all of the above energy strategy” that couples conservation with production. More troubling than the Democrats’ refusal to work with Republicans, though, is their refusal to listen to the American people. But as a seemingly endless string of national polls indicates, American energy consumers are well aware of the emergency they find themselves in right now – and increasingly, they’re coming to learn who’s at fault for it.

Congressman Pete Roskam (Ill.), as part of an on-going Republican strategy to bring relief to the American people, will file a petition to force a vote on the bipartisan Coal To Liquid Fuel Act introduced by Congressmen Rick Boucher and John Shimkus. Their bill, H.R. 2208, allows the Secretary of Energy to approve loans to commercial scale projects that convert coal – in an environmentally safe fashion – to liquid fuel.

Coal to liquid technology is not widely used today. That’s because, until recently, the conversion process of turning solid coal into a gas and then condensing it back into a usable fuel form was cost prohibitive. But with oil at historic record levels, the conventional wisdom on this promising technology which has kept it on the shelf for generations no longer holds true.

This legislation would encourage more coal to liquid production by helping stabilize some of the initial investments in this capital-rich process. The Secretary of Energy can structure the federal loans so market prices will be used to determine when a loan is disbursed and when repayment is due.

America has vast coal reserves. Currently the U.S. produces approximately 1.06 billion tons of coal annually according the U.S. Geological Service – who also estimate that the total identified coal resources in the United States as being 1,600 billion tons, with another 1,600 billion tons of unidentified resources. It only makes sense to help companies use our natural resources to help break our dangerous and costly dependence on foreign oil

Courtesy of the offices of John Shimkus and the Republican Whip.